

RUSSELL FRY  
7TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Congress of the United States  
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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Clio Rural Fire Department Fire Station Replacement Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Clio Rural Fire Department, located at 2008 Highway 381 South, Clio, South Carolina 29525. The funding would be used to construct a new fire station to house multiple fire apparatus for various response purposes.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it addresses a critical public safety gap in a rural, underserved area where emergency response times are currently impacted by distance and inadequate infrastructure. The existing facility is a dilapidated structure that can house only one fire engine and lacks the capacity to support personnel, equipment, or reliable operations. Federal investment will enable the construction of a durable, purpose-built fire station that improves response times, enhances firefighter readiness, and protects critical emergency equipment from damage. By ensuring that apparatus and personnel can be deployed quickly and effectively, the project will help prevent property loss, reduce risks to life, and improve overall community safety. The project also delivers long-term cost savings by reducing maintenance issues associated with improper equipment storage and minimizing the risk of equipment failure during emergencies. Improved fire protection capabilities can also help stabilize or improve local ISO ratings, which directly impact homeowners' insurance costs for residents in the area. Additionally, the project supports recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters by providing appropriate facilities for training and operations, strengthening the sustainability of local emergency services. Given the limited local funding capacity in rural Marlboro County, federal support is essential to delivering this core public safety function. Overall, this investment ensures equitable access to emergency services, protects lives and property, and strengthens the resilience of the community.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, codified at 7 U.S.C. section 1926(a).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, nor does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Russell Fry  
Member of Congress